

4/10/1954

MOLD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

To the Chairman and Members of the
Mold Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my Report on the health of the Urban District of Mold for the year ended 31st December, 1953.

From Table I it will be seen that the number of live-births was 121, compared with 124 in 1952, giving a slight fall in the birth-rate.

Table II shows that there was 1 still-birth, compared with 5 in 1952. In Table III, it is shown that there was a fall in the total number of deaths from 90 in 1952 to 66 in 1953, giving a crude death-rate of 10.06 per 1,000. Table IV gives an analysis of the causes of death. Of the 66 deaths, diseases of the heart and circulatory system accounted for 27, and cancer for 13. In a population which has an ever increasing number of old people, those figures must be expected to show an increase, as these complaints are found mainly in the elderly. It is pleasing to record once more that there were no deaths associated with pregnancy and childbirth, and there were no deaths from infectious diseases.

There were 6 deaths of infants under one year, compared with 4 in 1952.

The water supply to the town caused less anxiety during the summer drought. Supplies were adequate, and it was not necessary to cut supplies at night, as in previous years. Samples have shown that the water is of satisfactory quality.

Concerning housing conditions, the list of applicants is still very large, but a revision would show that the demand for Council Houses is not as urgent as it was. During the year, many very deserving cases were re-housed. There is no



doubt that the unavoidably high rents of new houses are causing young people to withdraw their applications. When a pre-war house becomes vacant there is a frantic rush by applicants, to whom, naturally, the low rent appeals.

Difficulty has arisen in acquiring land for building purposes. With an area of only 1,160 acres, most of it built upon, and much of the remainder rendered sterile by mining and other industries, Mold is rapidly approaching the point when it will be necessary to build houses outside the boundaries of the district.

During the year there were 85 cases of notifiable disease, the majority being Measles of a mild type. Concerning Tuberculosis, there were 13 cases as in 1952, and there were no deaths from this complaint.

A glance through this Report will show that health conditions in the District were satisfactory throughout the year. It will show also that there was a vast amount of day to day routine work done. With the ever-increasing amount of new legislation which affects local authorities, this work will greatly increase, particularly relating to housing.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Council as a whole, and your officers, for the assistance which has been so readily given to me throughout the year.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

D. J. FRASER,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.
SOCIAL CONDITIONS INCLUDING CHIEF
INDUSTRIES.

There has been no change in the area under this heading during the year under review.

Area in acres—1160 statutory acres.

Population (Registrar General's Estimate):—

Mid-year 1952—6553.

Mid-year 1953—6560.

Number of inhabited houses—1933.

Rateable value—£40,476.

Product of a penny rate—£160/9/1.

Vital Statistics—These are given in tabular form. For purposes of comparison, figures for last year are given, and, where appropriate, the rates for England and Wales as a whole.

TABLE I. **Births.**

Live Births.						
		Males.		Females.		Total.
Legitimate	...	54	...	63	...	117
Illegitimate	...	4	...	—	...	4
Total	...	58		63		121

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 Population :—

1952—18.92.

1953—18.44.

England and Wales : Live Birth Rate per 1,000 Population :—

1952—15.3.

1953 (Provisional)—15.5.

These figures show a slight fall in the local birth rate, but this is still above the rate for England and Wales. There were 121 live births, compared with 124 in 1952.

TABLE II. Still Births.

		Males.		Females.		Total.
Legitimate	...	1	...	—	...	1
Illegitimate	...	—	...	—	...	—
		—		—		—
Total	...	1		—		1
		—		—		—

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total live and still births :—

1952—38.75.

1953—8.19.

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Population :—

1952—0.76.

1953—0.15.

England and Wales : Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Population :—

1952—0.35.

1953 (Provisional)—0.35.

There was one still birth in 1953, compared with five in 1952.

TABLE III. Death (General) Rate :—

All ages (all causes)—Males 39, Females 27, Total 66, compared with 90 in 1952.

Death Rate per 1,000 Population :—

1952—13.73.

1953—10.06.

England and Wales : Death Rate per 1,000 Population :—

1952—11.3.

1953 (Provisional)—11.4.

There has been a fall in the crude death rate for the Mold Urban District. The rate for England and Wales shows a slight rise.

TABLE IV. Deaths (General) Analysis.

Causes.			M.	F.	Total.	Rate per 1000 Population.	
Cancer of stomach	...	...	2	1	3	...	0.45
Cancer of lung, bronchus	...	...	2	—	2	...	0.30
Cancer of breast	...	...	—	1	1	...	0.15
Cancer of other organs	...	...	3	4	7	...	1.06
Diabetes	...	...	—	1	1	...	0.15
Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	10	7	17	...	2.59
Coronary disease, angina	...	...	5	1	6	...	0.91
Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	—	3	3	...	0.45
Other heart disease	...	...	—	1	1	...	0.15
Pneumonia	...	...	4	1	5	...	0.76
Bronchitis	...	...	3	2	5	...	0.76
Hyperplasia prostrate	...	...	1	—	1	...	0.15
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	7	4	11	...	1.67
Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	1	—	1	...	0.15
All other accidents	...	...	1	1	2	...	0.30
Totals			39	27	66		

From this table it is seen that the leading causes of death were again circulatory diseases with 27 deaths, and cancer in one form or another with 13 deaths. It is worth noting that there were no deaths from infectious diseases, which include Tuberculosis.

TABLE V. Deaths (Childbirth)—Nil.

It is pleasing to record that once again there were no deaths attributable to pregnancy or childbirth.

TABLE VI. Death Rate (Infantile)—that is, Infants under one year old :—

		Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate	...	5	1	6
Illegitimate	...	—	—	—
Total	...	5	1	6

**Infantile Death Rate of Legitimate babies per 1,000
Legitimate Births :—**

1952—25.77.

1953—51.28.

**Infantile Death Rate of Illegitimate babies per 1,000
Illegitimate Births :—**

1952—1.25.

1953—Nil.

**Infantile Death Rate per 1,000 Live Births (Legitimate
and Illegitimate) :—**

1952—32.25.

1953—49.58.

**England and Wales : Infantile Death Rate per 1,000
Live Births :—**

1952—27.6.

1953—26.8.

These figures might lead one to imagine that the Infant Death Rate had greatly increased. Actually 6 infants under a year old died, compared with 4 in 1952. 3 of those infants were under a month old.

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Officers—The Officers serving the Urban District during the year were :—

Medical Officer of Health—D. J. Fraser, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor—H. Geoffrey Barnes, S.I.B., M.R.S.I., M. Inst. B.E., M. Inst. R.A., A.M. Inst. H.E.

Laboratory Facilities—Provided by the Public Health Laboratories at Conway and Birkenhead, and the Public Analyst, Chester.

Ambulance Services—Provided by the Flintshire County Council. An Ambulance is stationed within the Urban Area on a 24-hour service. Sitting-case car transport is available under arrangements made by the County Welfare Officer. The local office is in Wrexham Street.

Midwifery and Home Nursing Services are provided by the County Council. Two District Nurse/Midwives reside in the area.

Home Help—This service is provided by the County Council. Persons requiring home help should get in touch with the Home Helps Organiser at the County Health Department or with the Medical Officer of Health.

Tuberculosis.

Clinics—"Oaklands," Chester Road, Queensferry; Wednesdays at 9-30 a.m. The Clinic, Grosvenor Road, Wrexham; Mondays at 9-30 a.m.

Ante-Natal Clinics.

The Clinic, Mold. First and third Mondays of the month at 9-30 a.m.

School Clinic.

The Clinic, King Street, Mold. Wednesdays at 9-30 a.m.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The Clinic, King Street, Mold. The first Friday of the month at 1-30 p.m.

Dental Clinic.

Schoolchildren and expectant mothers are treated at the Clinic, King Street, Mold, by appointment.

Orthopaedic Clinic.

Shotton—New Clinic, Central School. 1st and 3rd Wednesdays each month at 10-30 a.m.

Infant Welfare.

The Clinic, King Street, Mold. Wednesdays at 1-30 p.m.

Ophthalmic Clinic.

The Clinic, King Street, Mold. The second and fourth Mondays of the month at 1-30 p.m. (by appointment).

Health Visiting.

Health Visitor/School Nurses are provided by the County Council. These Nurses visit children in their homes up to school age, and attend at the Infant Welfare Clinic sessions.

Prevention of Illness, Care and After Care.

This service is maintained by close liaison between the Medical Officer, Health Visitor/School Nurses, Tuberculosis Health Visitors, Home Helps Organiser, the Welfare Department, the County Health Department and voluntary bodies, including associations caring for the blind and deaf, and those otherwise handicapped.

Vaccination is carried out by general medical practitioners, but it may be done by the Medical Officer on request.

National Assistance Act, 1948 (Section 47). (Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention).

No cases were dealt with under this heading during the year.

Hospitals.

Hospital accommodation is provided by the Clwyd and Deeside Hospital Management Committee. Mold Cottage Hospital remains in use and provides services for local residents. Patients are admitted to other hospitals in the district, mainly in Wrexham and Chester.

SECTION C.

Water Supply.

Mold water supply is provided by the Mold Undertaking of the Wales Gas Board. The reservoir, situated on the eastern slopes of Moel Famau, and built towards the end of last century, has insufficient storage space for the needs of the town. With the continuing growth of the town, and the building of more and more houses, the problem of drought in the summer months will become more acute. During drought in the summer months, water is obtained from the Birkenhead Corporation water supply. It may be possible in the future to obtain more water from this source, when Birkenhead Corporation will have completed its scheme for extraction of water from the River Dee.

Proportion of dwelling houses and also population supplied with water directly to houses—98 %.

Quality of Water Supply—The water is chlorinated as it leaves the reservoir.

Bacteriological examination of water—Water samples are examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Birkenhead.

Independent samples are regularly taken by the Wales Gas Board.

Of 29 water samples taken, 27 were highly satisfactory, 2 were less satisfactory. In one of the unsatisfactory samples, a repeat test showed that the water was good. In the other, the water, which came from an old well at the sewage works, is not used for human consumption. Occasional complaints are made by the public concerning an unpleasant taste in the water. This is caused by slight over-chlorination, and can be removed by letting the water stand for a time, or by boiling it. This over-chlorination is perfectly harmless to health, and it makes certain that the water is fit to be used. One complete chemical analysis of the water was made, the report being satisfactory.

“Chemical Analysis. In parts per million of water.

Total solid matter in solution	...	...	60.0
Nitrogen in nitrates	...	...	0.38
Nitrites	...	...	Nil
Chlorine in chlorides	...	...	17.0
Oxygen absorbed from potassium perman- ganate in 4 hours at 80F.	...	...	Nil
Free and saline ammonia	...	...	Nil
Albuminoid ammonia	...	...	Nil
Microscopical deposit	...	...	Nil
Temporary hardness	...	...	15.0
Permanent hardness	...	...	30.0
pH value	...	...	6.6

The above chemical analysis is satisfactory. The water is a very soft one.”

Sewage Disposal.

During the year, the Sewage Disposal Works have been kept in as good order as is possible, considering the fact that they are greatly overloaded at all times.

No official complaints were made regarding river pollution. 28 samples of fluid effluent or stream water were sent for analysis. The results were satisfactory, but in one sample of stream water tar and oil were found. A problem which

will have to be faced is that resulting from the increased domestic use of detergent chemicals. These are used in most homes for washing purposes, and they pass in due course into the sewers. These chemicals have a bad effect on the filter beds. The problem is a national one, and this increased use of chemicals in the home may necessitate a change in methods of sewage disposal.

During the year, arrangements were completed for the Sewage Works Extensions, which will cost £28,000.

Schools.

All schools are regularly visited.

House Refuse.

Refuse collection is carried out by the Authority's labour. Disposal of refuse is by controlled tipping.

Nuisance has been caused by uncontrolled tipping of animal and vegetable refuse by shopkeepers.

The refuse tip continues to be a source of anxiety. Tipping should have ceased on this site many years ago, as a principle in controlled tipping is that the tip level should not be above that of the surrounding land. Tipping sites are difficult to find, as few landowners are willing to lease ground for this purpose. I would advise that immediate consideration be given to this matter, as neighbouring local authorities face the same difficulty. New sites should be acquired, although they may not be required for use immediately.

TABLE VII.

Number of visits made in connection with Public Health matters :—

Visits re complaint of defects	...	...	...	400
Re-visits to property under notice	...	...	...	221
Inspections under Building Byelaws	...	...	...	109
Shops and food stores	...	...	...	100
Slaughterhouse	...	...	...	190
Re refuse collection and disposal	...	...	...	10
Re infectious diseases and disinfection	...	...	...	45
Issue of Petrol Licences	...	...	...	9
Factories Act	...	...	...	90
Interviews with Owners or Agents	...	...	...	60

Housing Consolidation Regulations	...	...	40
Dirty or verminous premises	...	...	4
Bakehouses	...	...	20
Sewage Works	...	...	100
Dairies	...	...	6
Water Sampling	...	...	60

TABLE VIII.

Notices Served :—

Informal under Public Health Acts	...	...	40
Formal under Housing Acts	...	...	—
Abatement under Public Health Acts	...	...	4
Total			44

TABLE IX.

Work Done :—

Sanitary Conveniences repaired	...	...	6
Drain obstructions removed	...	...	300
Dangerous floors repaired	...	...	5
Roofs and gutters repaired	...	...	150
Plaster repaired	...	...	20
Windows repaired	...	...	10
Bakehouse walls cleansed	...	...	3
Cesspools emptied	...	...	2
Plumbing repairs completed	...	...	110
Dangerous structures made safe	...	...	3
Hedges lopped	...	...	14
Water supplies improved	...	...	3
Doors repaired	...	...	6
Yards repaired	...	...	4

SECTION D.

Housing.

During the year 5 privately-built houses were erected, 69 Council houses were completed, and 29 were in course of erection. By the end of the year, the total number of Council houses was 571, out of 1933 inhabited houses in the district. The applications for Council house tenancies amounted to 375. Of this number, over 60 per cent. were families in

rooms. Considerable overcrowding exists, especially in the Council-owned houses. Little can be done to abate this until new houses become available. During the year many cases of gross overcrowding were relieved. Concerning the list of applicants, it must be admitted that frequent revision is required. Many applicants have their names on the waiting list of at least three other authorities, and it is known that persons whose applications are still valid have already been housed elsewhere. To reduce the waiting list to its proper size it will be necessary to circularise applicants at least once a year, and applicants should, in their own interest, notify the Council of any change in their circumstances.

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Regular inspections of food premises were made. All premises were satisfactory as to lighting, ventilation and drainage. In a few cases, lack of cleanliness was apparent. The owners were warned and conditions improved.

All premises where food is handled were inspected regularly.

Generally, those whose occupation involves handling of food are co-operative, and suggestions made in the interests of improved hygiene are well received.

Sampling of Food (by the County Sanitary Inspector).

During the year, 27 samples of food were taken. Of these, three were not genuine—two of cooking fat and one of sausages. The fat was rancid, and the sausages showed a slight meat deficiency. The manufacturers concerned were warned.

Ice Cream.

Most of the Ice Cream sold in the district is manufactured in factories situated in other areas and it is pre-packed. The standard of cleanliness of ice cream is satisfactory. Ice cream is made in only one premises, and the heat treatment method of manufacture is used. Twenty premises are registered for the sale of ice cream.

Milk.

The quality of milk from the point of view of composition is the responsibility of the County Council as the Food

and Drugs Authority. Most of the milk sold in the district is supplied by two large firms outside the district, and this milk is all heat treated. There are three producer-retailers in the district. They are supervised by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. Eight samples were taken, and all were genuine.

TABLE X.

Number of animals inspected at the Abattoir :—

Sheep	...	...	...	5000
Cattle	...	...	...	960
Calves	...	...	...	500
Pigs	...	...	...	300
Total				6,760

TABLE XI.

Meat. Carcasses Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle Including Cows.			Sheep and Lambs.		Pigs.
Number killed	...	960	500	506	5000	300
All diseases except Tuberculosis :—						
Whole carcasses condemned	...	2	2	21	31	4
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	...	133	70	45	540	68
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	...	13.7	14.4	13	11.4	24
Tuberculosis only :—						
Whole carcasses condemned	...	9	7	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	...	233	200	—	—	—
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	...	25.2	21.5	—	—	—

TABLE XII.

Carcases, part Carcases and Organs Condemned.

Disease.	Beasts.	Calves.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Total.
Carcases	20	21	31	4	76
Forequarters	4	6	35	2	47
Hindquarters	7	—	2	2	11
Heads	22	5	40	17	84
Plucks	28	5	152	87	272
Lungs	104	—	—	12	116
Livers	107	6	408	51	572
Spleens	30	—	—	2	32
Intestines	16	—	2	—	18
Stomachs	11	2	2	—	15
Legs	4	—	13	33	50
Full Offals	4	5	22	5	36
Hearts	22	—	20	5	47
Tails	8	—	—	—	8

TABLE XIII.

**Food unfit for human consumption voluntarily
surrendered :**

Evaporated Milk	...	...	...	26 tins
Baked Beans	...	...	...	1 „
Tinned Meat	...	...	...	30 „
Peas	...	...	...	1 „
Fish	...	...	...	15 stones
Cheese	...	...	...	16 lbs.
Cream Cheese	...	...	...	121 pkts.
Salmon	...	...	...	1 tin
Tomatoes	...	...	...	87 tins
Bacon	...	...	...	11 lbs.
Gammon	...	...	...	25 „
Fruit	...	...	...	121 tins
Meat Loaf	...	...	...	4 „
Ham	...	...	...	16 „
Sausage	...	...	...	41 lbs.
Cream	...	...	...	4 tins
Eggs	...	...	...	2 „

Fruit Juice	...	...	...	9 tins
Fruit Salad	...	...	...	1 „
Marsh Mallow	...	...	...	3 „
Fish Cakes	...	...	...	8 lbs.
Veal	...	...	...	10 tins
Corned Beef	...	...	...	2 „
Pilchards	...	...	...	1 „
Ox Tongue	...	...	...	9 „
Brisket Beef	...	...	...	3 „
Luncheon Meat	...	...	...	6 „
Turkeys	...	...	...	1

Condemned Food.

When food has to be condemned, it is inspected either by the Medical Officer or by the Sanitary Inspector. A certificate is issued to the owner of the food, so that he may obtain credit for the goods from the wholesale supplier, and the food is destroyed at the Council tip, usually by burying it deeply in the ground. With food such as potatoes and greenstuffs, pig keepers may be given permission to remove such food for feeding to animals.

Meat which has been condemned is sprayed with green dye, and sold to fertiliser manufacturers. Certificates are obtained showing the weight of condemned meat, so that none goes astray on the journey.

Factories.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises. (1)	M/c. Line No. (2)	No. on Register. (3)	Inspections. (4)	Number of Written Notices. (5)	Occupiers Prosecuted. (6)	M/c. Line No. (7)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	...	1 ... 7	20	1 written 8 verbal	Nil ...	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	...	2 ... 29	34	8 verbal	Nil ...	2
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out workers premises)	...	3 ... 3	8	Nil	Nil ...	3
Total	...	39	62	17	Nil	

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars. (1)	M/c. Line No.	Number of cases in which defects were found.						M/c. Line No.
		Found. (3)	Remedied. (4)	Referred		in which prosecutions were instituted. (7)	(8)	
				To H.M. In- spectr. (5)	By H.M. In- spectr. (6)			
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	...	3	3	—	—	—	4	
Overcrowding (S.2)	...	—	—	—	—	—	5	
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	...	—	—	—	—	—	6	
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	...	3	3	—	—	—	7	
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	...	2	2	—	—	—	8	
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) :—								
(a) Insufficient	...	4	4	—	—	—	9	
(b) Unsuitable or defective	...	4	4	—	—	—	10	
(c) Not separate for sexes	...	1	1	—	—	—	11	
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)								
...	...	—	—	—	4	—	12	
Total	...	17	17	Nil	4	Nil	60	

Part VIII of the Act.
OUTWORK.

(Sections 110 and 111).

		Section 110				Section 111.												
Nature of Work,	M/c. Line No.	(1)	(2)	No. of Outworkers in Aug. list required by Sec.110(1)(c).	No. of Cases of default in sending lists to the Council.	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	Prose- cutions.	M/c. Line No.							
				(3)	(4)							(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)		
Wearing apparel (making, etc.) ...												13	—	—	—	13		
Cleansing and Washing ...												14	3	—	—	—	—	14
Total ...												70	3	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	70

SECTION F.

Prevalence and control of Notifiable Diseases
(excluding Tuberculosis).

TABLE XIV.

Diseases.		Cases notified.		Deaths notified.
Scarlet Fever	... ..	8	...	—
Whooping Cough	... ..	—	...	—
Measles	... ..	74	...	—
Ac. Pneumonia	... ..	2	...	5
Erysipelas	... ..	1	...	—
Total		85		5

TABLE XV.

Analysis of Notifiable Diseases. The figures shown in column 1 of the previous table are analysed in age groups below.

Number of cases notified as having occurred among persons of the ages immediately below specified.

Disease.		Under 1.	1-2.	3-4.	5-9.	10-14.	15-24.	25 & over.	Age Unknown.
Scarlet Fever	...	—	—	2	5	1	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	...	1	8	14	51	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Erysipelas	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—

There were no cases of Infantile Paralysis (Poliomyelitis), nor of Diphtheria. There was no outbreak of food poisoning during the year.

During the spring and summer there was an outbreak of Measles, mainly in children between three and nine years. It was of a mild type.

In the above tables it is seen that there were five deaths from Pneumonia, yet only two cases were notified. This occurs when patients are admitted to hospital, and the diagnosis is altered.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases notified in 1953.

Age Groups.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Total.
Under 1 year	...	—	...	—	...	—
1-2 years	...	—	...	—	...	—
3-4 „	...	—	...	—	...	—
5-9 „	...	—	...	—	...	—
10-14 „	...	1	...	—	...	1
15-24 „	...	1	...	—	...	1
25 and over	...	9	...	2	...	11
All ages	...	11	...	2	...	13

It will be seen that the notifications of new pulmonary cases numbered 11, and the non-respiratory cases 2, total 13 as in 1952. There were no deaths from tuberculosis. Of the new cases, 10 were males, 3 females. One of the cases was a transfer from another district. All these patients visited the Chest Clinics, and were supervised at home by the Tuberculosis Health Visitors.